Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition comprising:

(a) n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer in an effective amount for sound-damping response;

(b) at least about 0.5% by weight of a low-density glass bead filler;

(c) at least one additional filler; and

(d) at least one rheological modifier in an effective amount for controlling the sag and slide resistance of the composition;

wherein said pre-baked sound-damping composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

15. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 14 further comprising at least one glycidyl methacrylate functional multipolymer acrylic material having a glass transition temperature of from about 0° C to about 60° C.

16. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 14 wherein the composition has a density of from about 1.1 to about 1.6 g/cc.

17. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 16 wherein the composition has a density of from about 1.2 to about 1.4 g/cc.

18. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 14 wherein the additional filler is selected from the group consisting of dolomitic limestone, limestone, calcium carbonate, plastic microspheres, and mica, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 18 comprising from about 30% to about 75% by weight of the additional filler.

20. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 19 comprising from about 1% to 5% by weight of the glass bead filler.

21. (Presently amended) A baked sound-damping composition [according to claim 14 wherein the composition is] prepared by forming an aqueous mixture of the pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 14 [components (a)-(d)], extruding the mixture onto a substrate, and then baking the extruded mixture to remove water content in a controlled manner.

22. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 14 comprising, by weight: (a) from about 13% to about 25% n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-st- yrene copolymer; (b) from about 1% to about 5% of a low-density glass bead filler; (c) from about 40% to about 65% of additional filler selected from the group consisting of dolomitic limestone, limestone, calcium carbonate, plastic microspheres, and mica, and mixtures thereof; (d) less than about 5% of rheological modifiers; (e) less than about 10% of other additives; and (f) water.

23. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition that has increased sound-damping efficacy after being baked for at least 10 minutes at a temperature of at least about 107° C versus the [a] pre-baked composition, said pre-baked sound-damping composition comprising a polymeric system, at least one low-density glass bead filler, at least one additional filler, and at least one rheological modifier, and wherein said composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

24. (Presently amended) A pre-baked sound-damping composition according to claim 23 having a density of from about 1.2 to about 1.4 g/cc.

25. (Presently amended) A method for applying a sound-damping composition to a substrate, comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a [said] sound-damping composition comprising:

(a) n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer in an effective amount for sound-damping response;

(b) at least about 0.5% by weight of a low-density glass bead filler;

(c) at least one additional filler;

(d) at least one rheological modifier in an effective amount for controlling the sag and slide resistance of the composition; and

(e) water;

wherein said sound-damping composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc;

(2) [said method comprising] extruding the composition onto a substrate as a plurality of spaced-apart beads; and

(3) baking [it] the extruded composition to exhaust water content in a controlled manner.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is baked at a temperature of at least about 107° C.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is extruded in a bead having a width of from about 1 mm to about 12 mm.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is extruded in a bead having a thickness of from about 1 mm to about 5 mm.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is extruded in beads spaced less than about 2 mm apart.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is extruded in beads having a width of from about 1 mm to about 12 mm and a thickness of from about 1 mm to about 5 mm, with a spacing of less than about 2 mm between the beads.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the composition is extruded in beads having a width of from about 5 to about 8 mm and a thickness of from about 2 to about 3 mm.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein the composition is baked for from about 15 to about 30 minutes at a temperature between about 124° C and about 191° C.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the composition is baked from about 15 to about 30 minutes at a temperature between about 124° C and 191° C.

34. (Presently amended) A method of increasing the sound-damping efficacy of an aqueous polymeric composition comprising the steps of:

(a) extruding the aqueous composition onto a substrate in the form of beads having a width of from about 1 mm to about 12 mm and a thickness of from about 1 mm to about 5 mm, with a spacing of less than about 2 mm between the beads; and

(b) baking the extruded composition for at least about 10 minutes at a temperature of at least about 107° C;

wherein the sound-damping efficacy of the composition after baking is greater than before baking.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34 wherein the pre-baked sound-damping composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Presently amended) A method of applying an aqueous sound-damping polymeric material intended to be dried by an oven, said method comprising extruding the aqueous polymeric material onto a substrate in beads having a width of from about 1 mm to about 12 mm and a thickness of from about 1 mm to about 5 mm, with a spacing of less than about 2 mm between the beads.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the material is applied to effectuate sound-damping and the substrate is an automobile component.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the material is applied to effectuate sound-damping and the substrate is a cell phone component.

40. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the material is applied to effectuate sound-damping in a sink.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the material is applied to effectuate sound-damping and the substrate is an appliance selected from the group consisting of dishwashers, dryers, washing machines, blenders, food processors, mixers, fans, air conditioners, snowmobiles, lawnmowers, and convection ovens.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein the material is applied to effectuate sound-damping and has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

43. (Original) The method according to claim 42 wherein the material is a sound-damping composition comprising an n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-st- yrene copolymer in an effective amount for sound-damping response; at least one low-density glass bead filler; at least one additional filler; and at least one rheological modifier in an effective amount for controlling the sag and slide resistance of the material.

44. (Original) The method according to claim 37 further comprising the step of baking the extruded material for at least about 10 minutes at a temperature of at least about 107° C.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 44 wherein the material is a sound-damping composition comprising an n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-st- yrene copolymer in an effective amount for sound-damping response; at least one low-density glass bead filler; at least one additional filler; and at least one rheological modifier in an effective amount for controlling the sag and slide resistance of the material.

46. (Original) The method according to claim 45 wherein the sound-damping composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

47. (New) A pre-baked sound-damping composition comprising:

(a) a polymeric composition comprising n-butyl acrylate-acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer in an effective amount for sound-damping response;

(b) at least about 0.5% by weight of a low-density glass bead filler having an isostatic crush strength of at least 5500 psi;

(c) at least one additional filler; and

(d) at least one rheological modifier in an effective amount for controlling the sag and slide resistance of the composition;

wherein said pre-baked sound-damping composition has a density of from about 1 to about 2 g/cc.

48. (New) The pre-baked sound-damping composition according to Claim 47, comprising about 1% to 5% by weight of the low-density glass bead filler.

49. (New) The pre-baked sound-damping composition according to Claim 47, further comprising from about 0.02% to about 0.4% by weight of expandable plastic microspheres.

50. (New) A sound-damping composition according to claim 47 wherein the composition has a density of from about 1.1 to about 1.6 g/cc.

51. (New) A sound-damping composition according to claim 50 wherein the composition has a density of from about 1.2 to about 1.4 g/cc.

52. (New) A sound-damping composition according to claim 47 wherein the additional filler is selected from the group consisting of dolomitic limestone, limestone, calcium carbonate, plastic microspheres, and mica, and mixtures thereof.

53. (New) A sound-damping composition according to claim 52 comprising from about 30% to about 75% by weight of the additional filler.